

What is claimed is:

1. A printing-fluid container, comprising:
 - a reservoir configured to hold printing fluid, the reservoir defining a well in a gravitationally low portion of the reservoir; and
 - 5 a fluid interface configured to releasably receive a fluid connector to draw printing fluid from the well.
- 10 2. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the fluid interface includes a septum mounted on the reservoir to receive a horizontally-inserted fluid connector.
- 15 3. The printing-fluid container of claim 2, wherein the fluid interface further includes a spring member and a plug member, and wherein the spring member yieldably biases the plug member against the septum to create a fluid tight seal.
- 20 4. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the reservoir includes a bottom surface configured to gravitationally direct printing fluid toward the well.
- 25 5. The printing-fluid container of claim 4, wherein the bottom surface includes a trough portion that protrudes downwardly from a remaining portion of the bottom surface, and wherein the well is at least partially defined by the trough portion.
6. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, further comprising an air interface located above the fluid interface.
- 30 7. The printing-fluid container of claim 6, wherein the fluid interface and the air interface are vertically aligned on a substantially planar face of the printing-fluid container.

8. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional area of the reservoir in the well is less than a cross-sectional area of the reservoir above the well.

5 9. The printing-fluid container of claim 8, wherein the cross-sectional area of the reservoir in the well is at most half the cross-sectional area of the reservoir above the well.

10 10. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the fluid interface and the well are cooperatively configured to deliver printing fluid from the reservoir until such reservoir is at least 90% drained.

15 11. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the fluid interface and the well are cooperatively configured to leave a volume of stranded printing fluid which is no more than approximately 5% of a volume of the reservoir.

20 12. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the fluid interface and the well are cooperatively configured to provide for delivery of printing fluid from the reservoir until no more than approximately 2 cubic centimeters of printing fluid remains in the reservoir.

25 13. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, wherein the fluid interface and the well are cooperatively configured to provide for delivery of printing fluid from the reservoir until no more than approximately 1 cubic centimeter of printing fluid remains in the reservoir.

14. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, further comprising a free volume of ink held within the reservoir.

30 15. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, further comprising a free volume of preconditioner held within the reservoir.

16. The printing-fluid container of claim 1, further comprising a free volume of fixer held within the reservoir.

17. A printing-fluid container configured for lateral installation in a
5 printing system, the printing-fluid container comprising:

a reservoir configured to hold a printing fluid, the reservoir defining a protruding well into which printing fluid is gravitationally pulled; and

a fluid interface configured to access the reservoir from laterally adjacent the well when the printing-fluid container is installed.

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18. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, wherein the fluid interface includes a septum configured to receive a horizontally inserted fluid connector.

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19. The printing-fluid container of claim 18, wherein the fluid interface further includes a spring member and a plug member, and wherein the spring member biases the plug member against the septum to create a fluid tight seal when the printing-fluid container is installed.

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20. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, further comprising an air-interface located above the fluid interface.

21. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, wherein a cross-sectional area of the reservoir in the well is less than a cross-sectional area of the reservoir immediately above the well.

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22. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, further comprising a free volume of ink held within the reservoir.

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23. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, further comprising a free volume of preconditioner held within the reservoir.

24. The printing-fluid container of claim 17, further comprising a free volume of fixer held within the reservoir.

25. A printing-fluid container, comprising:
5 a reservoir defining an inner cavity configured to hold a free volume of printing fluid, wherein the free volume of printing fluid has a fluid level that lowers as the printing-fluid container is emptied; and
10 a fluid interface positioned on an upright face of the reservoir to accommodate draining of the free volume of ink until not more than 10% of the inner cavity contains the free volume of ink.

26. The printing-fluid container of claim 25, wherein the fluid interface is positioned to accommodate draining of the free volume of ink until the free volume of ink occupies not more than 5% of the inner cavity.

15 27. The printing-fluid container of claim 25, wherein the fluid interface is positioned to accommodate draining of the free volume of ink until the free volume of ink occupies not more than 2% of the inner cavity.

20 28. A printing-fluid container for installation in a printing system, the printing-fluid container comprising:
means for holding a volume of printing fluid, wherein the means for holding defines a bottom well of reduced cross-sectional area;
means for gravitationally directing printing fluid into the well; and
25 means for laterally receiving a fluid connector to draw printing fluid from the well.

30 29. The printing-fluid container of claim 28, wherein the bottom well is configured to contain a volume of printing fluid which is less than 10% of a volume of the means for holding.

30. A printing-fluid container, comprising:
a reservoir configured to hold a free volume of ink, the reservoir including
an upright face with a downwardly-extending protrusion; and
a fluid interface positioned on the downwardly-extending protrusion and
5 configured to access the free volume of ink.

31. The printing-fluid container of claim 30, wherein the fluid interface
includes a septum configured to receive a horizontally inserted fluid connector.

10 32. The printing-fluid container of claim 31, wherein the fluid interface
further includes a spring member and a plug member, and wherein the spring
member yieldably biases the plug member against the septum to create a fluid
tight seal.

15 33. The printing-fluid container of claim 30, further comprising an air
interface located above the fluid interface.

34. A printing-fluid container configured for lateral insertion in a
container bay of a printing system, the printing-fluid container comprising:
20 a leading surface;
a top surface;
a bottom surface;
an air interface positioned on the leading surface proximate the top
surface; and
25 a printing-fluid interface positioned on the leading surface proximate the
bottom surface.

35. The printing-fluid container of claim 34, wherein the printing-fluid
interface is positioned within 10 millimeters of the bottom surface.

36. The printing-fluid container of claim 35, wherein the air interface is positioned within 10 millimeters of the top surface.

37. The printing-fluid container of claim 34, wherein the printing-fluid
5 interface is positioned within 5 millimeters of the bottom surface.

38. The printing-fluid container of claim 37, wherein the air interface is positioned within 5 millimeters of the top surface.

10 39. The printing-fluid container of claim 34, wherein the leading surface includes a downwardly-extending protrusion and the bottom surface defines a downwardly-extending well substantially aligned with the downwardly-extending protrusion, and wherein the printing-fluid interface is positioned on the downwardly-extending protrusion to access the downwardly-extending well.

15 40. The printing-fluid interface of claim 39, wherein the downwardly-extending protrusion is horizontally centered on the leading surface.

20 41. The printing-fluid container of claim 39, wherein the printing-fluid interface and the air interface are vertically aligned.

42. The printing-fluid container of claim 41, wherein the printing fluid interface and the air interface are horizontally centered on the leading surface.

25 43. The printing-fluid container of claim 39, wherein the printing-fluid interface is configured to releasably laterally receive a fluid connector into a position to draw printing fluid from the downwardly-extending well.

30 44. The printing-fluid container of claim 34, wherein the printing-fluid interface is horizontally centered in the container bay upon lateral insertion of the container in the container bay.

45. The printing-fluid container of claim 34, wherein the printing-fluid interface and the air interface are vertically aligned.

46. A printing-fluid container configured for lateral insertion in a
5 container bay, the printing-fluid container comprising:

a reservoir defining an inner cavity configured to hold a volume of printing fluid, the reservoir having an upright leading surface with a downwardly-extending protrusion and a bottom surface defining a downwardly-extending well substantially aligned with the downwardly-extending protrusion; and

10 a fluid interface positioned on the downwardly-extending protrusion and configured to releasably receive a fluid connector into a position to draw printing fluid from the downwardly-extending well, wherein the fluid interface is horizontally centered in the container bay upon insertion of the printing-fluid container in the container bay.

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47. The printing-fluid interface of claim 46, wherein the downwardly-extending protrusion is horizontally centered on the leading surface.

48. The printing-fluid container of claim 47, wherein the fluid interface is
20 positioned within 10 millimeters of the bottom surface.

49. The printing-fluid container of claim 46, wherein the fluid interface includes a horizontal passage through which the fluid connector may pass.

25 50. The printing-fluid container of claim 46, wherein the bottom surface includes a slanting portion configured to gravitationally direct printing fluid to the downwardly-extending well.

51. A method of delivering a printing fluid, comprising:
 - holding a free volume of printing fluid in a reservoir that includes a fluid interface and a well positioned at a bottom of the reservoir when the reservoir is in a seated orientation; and
 - 5 drawing printing fluid via the fluid interface from the well such that fluid may be drawn until the reservoir is more than 90% empty.